

## Message Text

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44

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SUBJ: ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S TESTIMONY AT COUP TRIAL: A  
NEW TWIST

REF ATHENS 5898

1. "NATO AND THE CIA DID IT," IS A PITHY SUMMARY OF PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S AUGUST 5 TESTIMONY AT THE TRIAL OF THE LEADERS OF THE 1967 COUP. OF COURSE, PAPANDREOU WOVE A MORE COMPLEX TALE, LINKING THE 1967 COUP TO THE CYPRUS SITUATION, A PRESENTATION THAT BOTH APPEALS TO THE GREEKS' SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND GIVES HIS TALE A SENSE OF IMMEDIACY. NOT UNEXPEDTEDLY, THEREFORE, PAPANDREOU'S APPEARANCE HAS DOMINATED THE PRESS, THE TELEVISION AND THE RADIO.

2. FOR THE MOST PART, PAPANDREOU'S TESTIMONY DID NOT DIFFER GREATLY FROM WHAT HE HAS SAID BEFORE, FOR EXAMPLE IN HIS BOOK "DEMOCRACY AT GUN POINT." IN SUM, THE MEN WHO CARRIED OUT THE COUP OF 1967 WERE ACTING ON THE ORDERS AND THE PLANS OF THE UNITED STATES AND NATO.  
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THESE OLD CHARGES WERE GIVEN GREATER LIFE THE PREVIOUS DAY, WHEN RETIRED GENERAL OPROPOULOS ALLEGED TO THE COURT THAT THE DEFENDANTS HAD OVER THE YEARS RECEIVED SPECIAL TREATMENT - INCLUDING PROMOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS - WITHIN THE GREEK ARMY THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF NATO AND "FOREIGN POWERS".

3. HOWEVER, PAPANDREOU EXPLORED NEW TERRITORY WITH HIS ALLEGATION THAT THE COUP WAS "NOT UNRELATED" TO THE EVENTS ON CYPRUS IN 1974 AND 1975. THE ESSENCE OF THE THEORY IS THAT THE UNITED STATES BEGINNING AS EARLY AS 1967 HAS SOUGHT THE PARTITION OF THE ISLAND BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE, TO OBTAIN BASES ON THE ISLAND. TO BRING THIS PARTICULAR STORY TO LIFE, PAPANDREOU ASSERTED THAT IN 1968 GEORGE BALL - IN A PUBLIC DEBATE - TOLD PAPANDREOU THAT DEMOCRACY IN GREECE WAS DESTROYED BECAUSE OF CYPRUS. FRAGMENTARY EVIDENCE TO THE OUTSIDE OBSERVER, BUT PERHAPS CONVINCING DETAIL TO MANY WILLING BELIEVERS IN THIS COUNTRY.

4. OF NOTE, TOO, WAS PAPANDREOU'S ATTEMPT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE GREEK MILITARY AND THE COUP MAKERS, BY NOTING THAT THE ARMY WAS THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE COUP.

5. THERE WAS OF COURSE NO SUCH CONCILIATION TOWARDS FORMER KING CONSTANTINE. PAPANDREOU SAID THE KING SHOULD HAVE HIS OWN PLACE AMONG THE DEFENDANTS BECAUSE, HE ALLEGED, IF PAPADOPOULOS HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN MAKING A COUP THE KING WOULD HAVE CARRIED OUT HIS OWN. THIS PARTICULAR CHARGE ECHOES A CLAIM MADE EARLIER IN THE TRIAL THAT THE KING AND HIS ALLIES WERE ALSO PLOTTING IN APRIL 1967 AND PAPADOPOULOS SIMPLY BEAT THEM TO THE PUNCH.

6. IN CONTRAST TO PAPANDREOU'S FLAMBOYANT CHARGES, FORMER PRIME MINISTER STEPHANOS STEPHANOPOULOS INTRODUCED A QUIET AND PERHAPS UNCONSCIOUS NOTE OF IRONY WHEN IN HIS TESTIMONY ON THE SAME DAY HE NOTED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE COUP THERE WAS NO DANGER OF COMMUNISM BUT THERE WAS A DANGER OF ANARCHY. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT THE THREAT FROM THAT QUARTER COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH DEMOCRATICALLY AND COULD NOT JUSTIFY A COUP. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU WAS OF COURSE ONE OF THOSE SOWING THE POLITICAL WHIRLWIND IN 1967. KUBISCH

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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